

SECRET INVASION™

NOVA®



MARVEL

16

ABNETT
LANNING
ALVES
HANNA
GURU

THE CENTURIONS OF THE NOVA CORPS WERE ONCE THE PROTECTORS OF PEACE AND ORDER IN THE UNIVERSE. BUT THEN THE ANNIHILATION WAR DESTROYED THEM—ALL EXCEPT ONE. YOUNG EARTHMAN RICHARD RIDER, NOW IMBUED WITH THE SUPER-INTELLIGENT WORLDMIND COMPUTER AND THE COMBINED POWER OF THE CORPS, WAGES A ONE-MAN BATTLE FOR JUSTICE AS...

NOVA

NOVA HAS SURVIVED THE APOCALYPTIC WRATH OF GALACTUS, BUT THE COST HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANT. DURING NOVA'S EFFORTS TO ESCAPE THE GREAT DEVOURER'S DESTRUCTIVE APPETITE, THE WORLDMIND COMPUTER WAS SEVERELY DAMAGED AND SUFFERED A TOTAL SYSTEM FAILURE.



WITHOUT ITS PRECIOUS RESOURCE OF DATA AND OPERATIONAL SUPPORT, AS WELL AS THE COMPANIONSHIP THAT THE WORLDMIND SUPPLIED, NOVA IS OBLIGED TO PRESS ON ALONE WITH HIS RESPONSIBILITIES AS AN INTERGALACTIC LAWMAN.

**DAN ABNETT &
ANDY LANNING**
WRITERS

**WELLINTON ALVES &
GERALDO BURGESS**
PENCILERS

SCOTT HANNA
INKER

GURU EFX
COLORIST

VC'S CORY PETT
LETTERER

PAUL DAVIDSON
COVER ARTIST

JOE SABINO
PRODUCTION

**LAUREN SANKOVITCH &
LAUREN HENRY**
ASST. EDITORS

BILL ROSEMANN
EDITOR

JOE QUESADA
EDITOR IN CHIEF

DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

To find Marvel Comics at a local comic shop, call 1-888-COMICBOOK.

SOMETIMES,
CHANGE TAKES YOU
BY SURPRISE.

**DENDRON,
VICINITY OF 320 LEONID...**

I USED TO WHINE AND MOAN
ABOUT WORLDMIND. HE WAS
LIKE A CRABBY, KNOW-IT-ALL
PARENT SOMETIMES.

I LONGED FOR THE DAY
WHEN HE WOULDN'T BE IN
MY HEAD ANYMORE, NAG-
NAG-NAGGING AWAY.

"DON'T DO THAT, RICHARD!"...
"NOVA 1124 94 4 396, DESIST
FROM THIS COURSE OF
ACTION"..."IT IS CRITICAL YOU
PAY ATTENTION AT THIS TIME!"...

NOW HE'S
GONE, AND GOD,
I MISS HIM.

IT'S ONLY BEEN
NINETEEN HOURS,
BUT I FEEL SO
EMPTY WITHOUT
HIM. SO ALONE.

AND SO GUILTY THAT
I LOST THE LAST
GREAT LEGACY OF
XANDARIAN CULTURE.

CALLING THE
CENTURIONS OF THE
NOVA CORPS!

**DISTRESS,
DISTRESS, CODE BXB!**
XENO-BOTANICAL RESEARCH TEAM
FROM THE FEDERATED PRRPAAW PRIDE
REPORTING SUSPECTED PHALANX
INFESTATION IN THE RAIN FORESTS OF
DENDRON, VICINITY OF 320 LEONID.
REQUESTING URGENT CORPS
INTERVENTION!



I'M JUST GOING TO
HAVE TO GET USED
TO DEALING WITH THIS
STUFF ON MY OWN.

OKAY,
THIS DOES
NOT LOOK
GOOD.

SEEMS LIKE
THERE WAS A
RUMBLE IN THE
JUNGLE.

GREEN FOR DANGER

A SECRET INVASION STORY



HELLO?
I'M A NOVA
CENTURION!
IS ANYBODY
HERE?

SUIT USER
SUPPORT?

PLEASE SELECT
USER SUPPORT
OPTION.



SELECT FULL
SCAN OPTION.
SEARCH FOR
LIFE SIGNS.

USER SUPPORT IS MY SUIT'S
EMERGENCY BACKUP SYSTEM.
IT'S A PRETTY **RUDIMENTARY**
TECH RESOURCE DESIGNED TO
CLIT IN WHEN THE WORLDMIND
IS DOWN.

OR DEAD.



TROUBLE IS, USER SUPPORT
IS **VERY LIMITED**. I HAVE TO
TELL IT TO DO **EVERYTHING**.
ALL THE STUFF WORLDMIND USED
TO DO **AUTOMATICALLY**.

IT'S **REALLY**
SLOWING ME
DOWN.

SCANNING...LIFE
SIGN DETECTED.

WHO'S
THERE? SHOW
YOURSELF!



H-HELP...
PLEASE,
C-CENTURION...

OH, BLUE
BLAZES!



OKAY, TAKE
IT EASY. I'VE GOT
YOU. WHAT'S YOUR
NAME?

B-BOTANIST
MAOW, T-TEAM
LEADER. TH-THEY
LEFT US F-FOR
DEAD.

EASY,
NOW...

D-DON'T
FUSS WITH ME,
CENTURION...
H-HELP THE
CH-CHILDREN...







SKRULLS?
SKRULLS?!

SEE? WHAT
WAS I JUST
SAYING...

CHANGE
CAN TAKE YOU
BY SURPRISE.





EEEEARRGHHH!

ON YOUR FEET, RIDER.

KL'RT? IS THAT YOU?

YES, MAY THE STARS FORGIVE ME.

TRAITOR! SLAY HIM!

SLAY ME? I DON'T THINK SO...

...I WAS FIGHTING IMPERIAL WARS BEFORE YOU PUPS WERE GENE-BRED.

I AM THE ORIGINAL SUPER-SKRULL!

GHHNG!

YOU'RE OLD! AN OBSOLETE THROWBACK!

USER SUPPORT?

PLEASE SELECT USER SUPPORT OPTION.

FULL BODY GRAVIMETRIC PULSE...





USER
SUPPORT! FULL
YIELD, LEFT
HAND!

KL'RT!



KL'RT!

BREAK OFF!
GIVE ME A CLEAN
SHOT AT HIM!

NO NEED,
TERRAN.



THEY
ARE BUT
WHELPS.

THEY
KNOW NOT THE
SUDLETIES OF
BATTLE...

SUCH AS
WRAPPING A
BRAIN IN A
FORCE FIELD...



...AND
SQUEEZING.

UHHKKK--



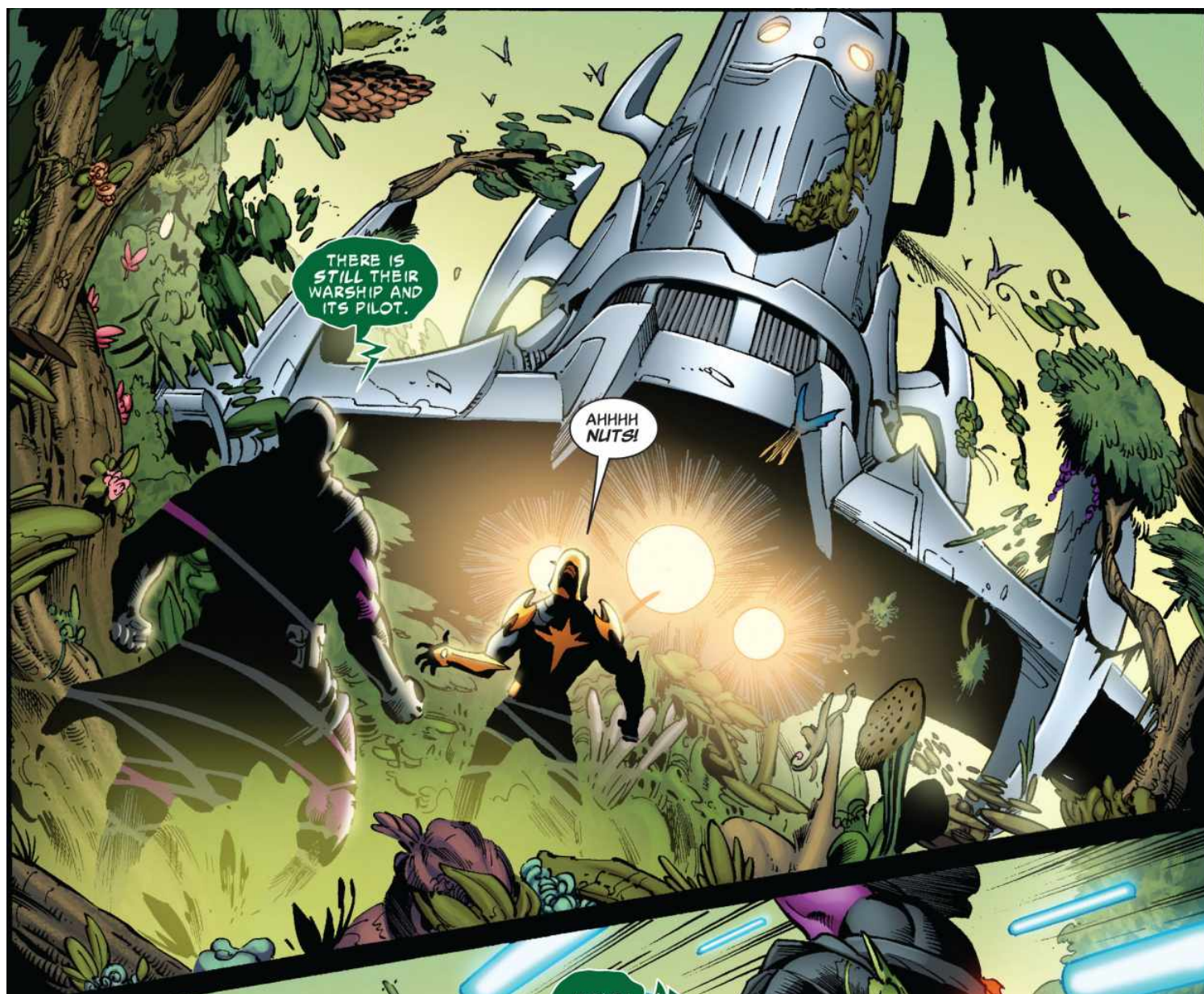
WHAT THE
HELL IS THIS
ABOUT, KL'RT?

WAR,
RIDER...
AGAIN.

EXPLAIN!

PERHAPS,
ONCE THIS IS
OVER.

UH...
IT'S NOT
OVER?





WE CAN'T JUST RUN! IT'S GOING TO GET TARGET LOCK ANY SECOND NOW AND ATOMIZE US!

ARE YOU SUGGESTING WE TURN AND FIGHT, TERRAN?

THAT'S A V'RUKK CLASS ATTACK SHIP!

AND I'M NOVA.



SPLIT LEFT, KL'RT! CONFUSE ITS TARGETERS!

USER SUPPORT?

PLEASE SELECT USER SUPPORT OPTION.



ROUTE FULL GRAVIMETRIC POWER, BOTH HANDS.

OPTION ELECTED.



WARNING! WARNING! TARGET ON INTERCEPT COURSE!

INTERCEPT? BUT--

THIS ONE IS MAD!



POW.

"SOMETIMES,
I FORGET HOW
POTENT YOU
ARE, TERRAN..."



...SO MUCH MORE POWERFUL THAN THE PUNY XANDARIAN CENTURIONS I HAVE SLAIN IN--

FORGIVE ME. THAT WAS INSENSITIVE.



I WAS THINKING OF OTHER DAYS AND OTHER WARS.

THINGS CHANGE.

THEY CERTAINLY DO. A SKRULL WORRYING ABOUT SENSITIVITY?

DO NOT MOCK ME.

I'M NOT. BUT XANDAR AND EARTH ARE OLD ENEMIES OF THE SKRULLS, YET YOU TURNED ON YOUR OWN KIND TO SAVE ME.



WE FOUGHT SIDE BY SIDE AGAINST ANNIHILUS AND THE PHALANX. SKRULL, HUMAN, KREE...A HUNDRED RACES UNITED AGAINST COMMON FOES FOR A GREATER GOOD.

THAT TAUGHT ME A GREAT DEAL ABOUT PRIORITIES.

I BELIEVE MY BELOVED SPECIES HAS BECOME LOCKED IN AN IGNORANT, RELIGIOUS CRUSADE.



THINK IT'S TIME YOU TOLD ME WHAT'S GOING ON, KL'RT.

BESIDES THE OBVIOUS REASONS, WHY DID THEY WANT ME DEAD? WHY THE ELABORATE SNEAK ATTACK?

I HAVE BECOME SOMETHING OF AN OUTCAST, RIDER. I AM NO LONGER CONSULTED OR CONSIDERED BY SKRULL HIGH COMMAND.



THEY REGARD ME AS A RELIC. AN ANTIQUE.

THERE IS A TERRAN NAME. PERHAPS YOU ARE FAMILIAR WITH IT. RONIN.



WHEN THE PRINCIPAL COMBAT ADVANTAGE OF YOUR SPECIES IS SUBTERFUGE, YOU USE IT TO THE FULLEST EXTENT TO WRONG-FOOT YOUR ENEMY.

HOWEVER, IT WAS DESPICABLE.

AND TO THINK... I HAVE KILLED MY OWN KIND FOR THE SAKE OF TERRAN MAMMALS. I DO NOT BELIEVE I CAN BE CLASSIFIED AS RONIN ANY MORE.

I THINK THE WORD FOR ME IS PARIAH.

THEN THERE'S HOPE FOR YOU YET.

SO, DID YOU EVER FIND OUT WHERE THIS INVASION WAS HEADING?

I ASSUMED YOU HAD UNDERSTOOD, SINCE YOUR ELIMINATION WAS PART OF THE PREPARATION.

THE SKRULLS DON'T WANT A TERRAN ARMED WITH THE NOVA FORCE INTERFERING WITH THEIR INVASION OF EARTH.

& **& % \$!
EARTH?!
*& & \$?!

KL'RT!
EARTH?! IT TAKES YOU THIS LONG TO TELL ME THAT?

I'M SORRY. YES, I SUPPOSE I SHOULD HAVE MENTIONED IT EARLIER.

UH...
YEAH!

USER SUPPORT!

SELECT ASTRAL NAVIGATION SYSTEM!
COMPUTE DIRECT COURSE TO EARTH!
PREPARE TO INITIATE STARGATE!

PLEASE
SELECT USER
SUPPORT OP--

OPTIONS
SELECTED.

WHEN YOU'RE DONE BLASPHEMING CENTURION, CONSIDER THIS...

TAKE ME WITH YOU.



WHY? YOU GONNA STOP THIS INVASION?

THAT IS BEYOND EVEN MY CONSIDERABLE POWERS.

BUT YOU DESTROYED THE CRUISER. I AM STRANDED HERE OTHERWISE.



SO I'LL DROP YOU OFF SOMEWHERE.

I WANT TO GO TO EARTH, RIDER. PLEASE.

I LOST A SON IN THE ANNIHILATION WAR. I HAVE A DAUGHTER ON EARTH. WE'VE BEEN ESTRANGED FOR YEARS, BUT...

...I WOULD NOT LOSE HER TOO.

YOU SAID...YOU OWED ME.



OKAY. YOU PUT IT LIKE THAT. I TRUST YOU...

THE SKRULLS HAVE GONE TO WAR, RIDER. YOU SHOULDN'T TRUST ANYONE.

BUT I WOULD BE INDEBTED TO YOU.



FINE!

USER SUPPORT? SCAN KL'RT AND ADJUST STARGATE TOLERANCES FOR HIS BODY MASS.

OPTION SELECTED.

ALL RIGHT. LET'S GO.



FIVE MINUTES LATER...

SHKWOOM!

PLEASE RETURN
YOUR TRAY TABLES
TO THE UPRIGHT
POSITION.

WHAT?

WE'RE
HERE, KL'RT.
EARTH.

BLUE
BLAZES!





NO KIDDING!
WE'RE SITTING
DUCKS!

THAT'S NOT
THE WORST OF
IT! THE ORBIT WATCH
HAS PICKED
US UP!



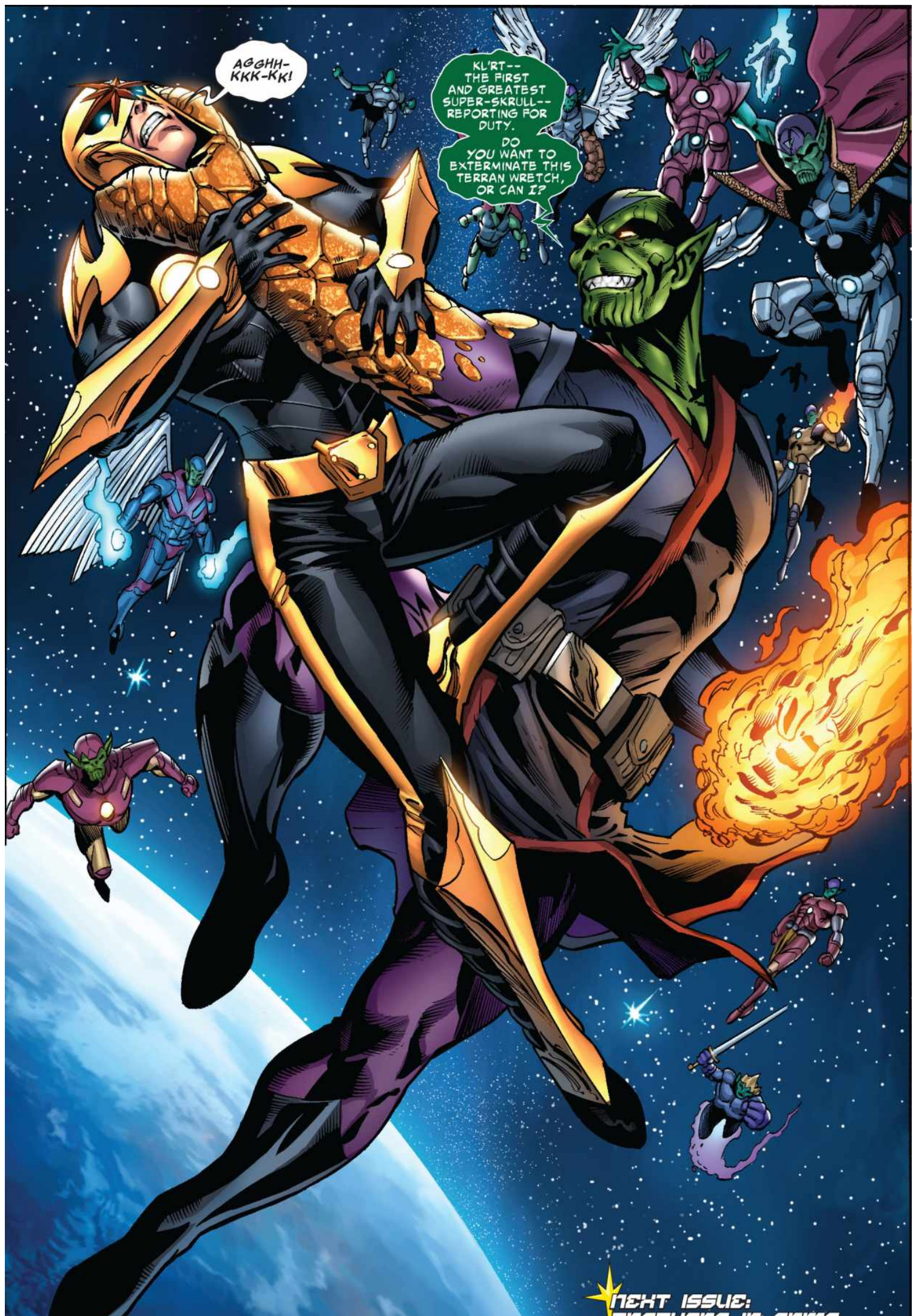
INTRUDERS
LOCATED! DESCENT
PATH MATCHED FOR
INTERCEPT!

TERMINATE
THEM!



KL'RT,
THEY'RE GOING
TO KILL US!

YES,
THEY ARE.
WELL, YOU
MAYBE...



NEXT ISSUE:
THE FIRST AND GREATEST SUPER-SKRULL--
REPORTING FOR DUTY.